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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Thailand-Laos Border Area

1. The Lao Government is constructing a military post at Ban Moh, approximately five kilometers from Vientiane, where a recently activated infantry battalion will be trained by French officers in joint command with a Lao captain. One Chasseur Company will be assigned to this battalion.
2. A Laos Inspection Unit, including a Cavalry Squadron, is being trained under the supervision of a French police officer. This unit was formerly organized as a French Territorial Unit charged with internal peace maintenance.
3. Although Laos has no airforce, a company of parachutists, commanded by a French officer, is receiving intensive training four kilometers north of Vientiane.
4. French forces in Laos include a fully armed and equipped Regimental Combat Team, composed of French, Moroccan and Lao troops under the command of a French lieutenant colonel. This regiment is supported by a motorized unit and an artillery unit.
5. The military budget of the Lao Government amounts to 200 million piasters out of a national budget of 425 million piasters. Government officials have been gratified by the attitude of increased cooperation shown by French authorities in Vientiane.

Thailand-Burma Border Area

6. The Chinese Nationalist troops at Mong Hang (99031, 21-39) have now reached a total of 2,000.* This force has 6-700 pack animals available for transport duty.
7. There is little change in the disposition of Burmese units in the northern Shan States. The main force is at Loi Mwe (99-45, 21-10), while one unit will be dispatched to Mong Yawng (100-20, 21-06). [REDACTED] Both of these camps are equipped with radios. The Kengtung air strip is currently being repaired to service medium-size aircraft.

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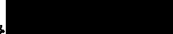
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*  Comment. According to information available to this office, the number of Chinese Nationalist troops currently in this area is 1,500.

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